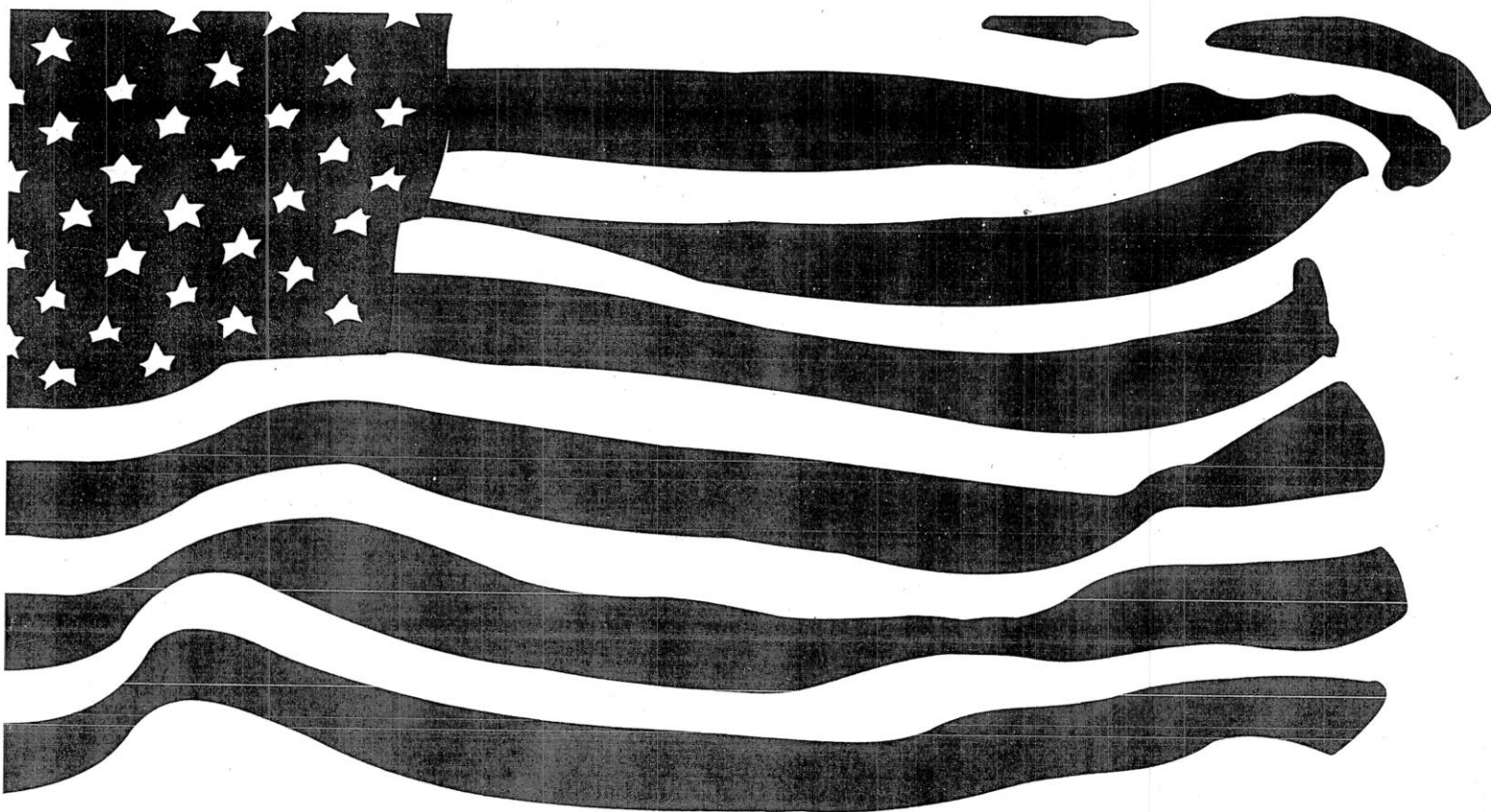


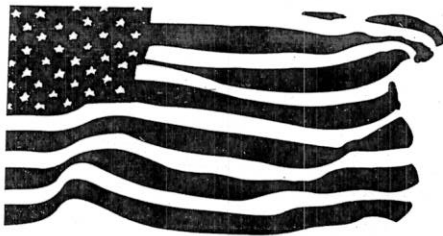
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At long last,

The Truth About the Queen

BY CDR. HAL P. DEMUTH (RET.)

(Editor's note: From time to time, NOAA's National Ocean Survey receives inquiries from antiquarians and others, seeking to learn about Queen Lillihau, immortalized by monuments and plaques from Honolulu to Kodiak.

Here, with the expiration of the statute of limitations, in an article written by a safely retired Survey officer in terms carefully calculated to protect the guilty, is the true story).

During the spring of 1961, the Ship Surveyor was operating on a hydrographic survey off the Hawaiian Islands near Maui, Molokai and Lanai. The operational schedule called for her to be in the project waters for two weeks and then steam to Honolulu to refuel, take some time off and re-supply before returning to Maui and the project.

During these infrequent trips to Honolulu, the officers and men were given an opportunity to get ashore for sightseeing on Oahu, visiting the places of interest in and about Honolulu and Waikiki Beach. At that time, we had a number of officers stationed on Oahu assigned duties in operation of the Field Office, Pacific Tide Surveys and the Magnetic Observatory. The visiting officers aboard the Surveyor frequently met with these friends, often at dinner parties, sightseeing trips and swimming parties.

One evening while at the home of a commander, the general feeling of well-being brought about by an excellent dinner and good friends led to a discussion of what we, the Surveyor officers, could do to express our gratitude not only to the various friends who had entertained us, but to the islands in general. The ship's Executive Officer proposed that we establish some sort of lasting monument or marker in the area, expressing the feeling of gratitude of the Surveyor for the wonderful times we had had in the Islands. The suggestion met with instant approval, and a variety of plans were discussed by which such a tribute could be performed. When it was decided that a monument or memorial should be estab-

lished, our host proposed a fixed donation of 10 cents per person, and that word of the project be spread around the island. The 15 or so guests at the party immediately produced their dimes, and the project was officially launched.

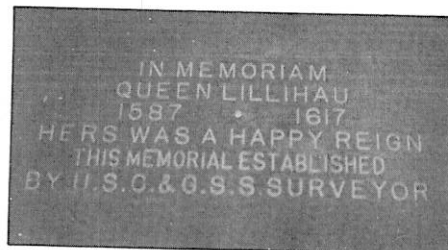
The next day a group of the officers visited the Bishop Museum in Honolulu—a museum devoted to the history and culture of the islands. Depicted on one wall is a family tree diagram of the kings and queens of the Hawaiian dynasty. This tree begins with the great king Kamehameha I (1758-1819) and continues through the various descendants to the final ruler, Queen Liliuokalani (1838-1917). Our group examined this tree and decided that somewhere in Hawaiian antiquity a branch could be grafted to immortalize our newly-inherited ruler in the islands. Although Queen Lillihau never existed in Hawaiian history, her reign, designated by the officers of the Surveyor to be 1587 to 1617, was a "happy reign" and as such was more than suitable for a memorial.

The unnamed fund now had an identity, and donations for the Queen Lillihau monument poured in from a variety of sources, usually at officers' clubs during the after-dinner social hour. The pre-dinner "happy hour" provided no small portion, also. If a lady donated the required 10 cents, our Commander graciously offered to give a kiss in return.

In June our stay in the islands was drawing to a close. We were to return from Maui to Honolulu one last trip, wind up our projects and embark for Arctic waters for the remainder of the field season. It was time to establish our monument, time to provide the Islanders with our token of appreciation.

A top level meeting ensued, a plan of action hammered out, assignments of duty were made and the final stages of the project launched. A piece of bronze plate was obtained. The ship's electrician was commissioned to engrave a legend upon the plate because he had three attributes we needed—the electrician's shop, an engraving machine, and a knowledge of how to operate the machine.

He did an outstanding job and when completed, the inscription read:



Now the second phase of the action plan was to begin. We examined a number of sites, with careful regard to several features. The site must be public (why hide the monument?), it should blend in with the natural beauty, but not disturb the function of the area. It should also be given more official status than just a private memorial.

As Operations Officer, I outlined a plan to provide the memorial with everlasting stability. We would make it an official Coast and Geodetic Survey marker, and would make measurements from it that would endow it with the same status as a bench mark or triangular station. This suggestion was accepted, and I was instructed to proceed.

A site was selected in the center of lovely Ala Moana Park which is located between Waikiki Beach and the downtown section of Honolulu, bordering the main drive along the famous beach area. The park itself is mostly green lawn, with scattered groups of palm trees providing a restful setting to the active public business of the area. Tourists gratefully stop at the park, rest in the shade before continuing to the beautiful Waikiki Beach.

As in most municipalities, an official permit would be required from the Honolulu city government before construction could begin on the Lillihau monument. A lieutenant (jg) was assigned the task of obtaining permission from the Honolulu city government. He found the permit office, applied for and was granted a permit to replace the monument with the only condition that the site be level with the ground to facilitate mowing the lawn.

Next, a survey team was organized which located and documented the position of the monument by using a Wild T-2 theodolite, a surveying instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles. By observing a series of established triangulation stations in the area of Ala Moana Park, the team computed the exact latitude and longitude of the station by means of the "three point problem" or triangulation method. When such triangulation stations are established their descriptions are furnished to the survey crew.

On the appointed day the survey crew, under the direction of the lieutenant (jg) set forth with shovels, concrete mix, water, the inscribed bronze tablet, four corner bolts to fasten the tablet to a concrete base,

the theodolite and suitable personnel. The City of Honolulu sent a representative from the city's engineering office to inspect the work as well as a truckload of yellow sawhorses to block off the construction area.

It was proposed that the local Navy band be requested and that a suitable dedication ceremony be prepared. The band, however, was committed to another engagement.

The job was done, the tablet in place, the measurements made, the observations of position taken, and the station was officially named "Lillihau" and described as noted in official C&GS forms. The lieutenant and his crew returned to the ship (berthed at pier 39, Honolulu) and received congratulations on a job well done. A large contingent of the ship's officers and men witnessed the

occasion, appearing in the Uniform of the Day, Tropical White, Long.

So it was done, and there in the serenity of Ala Moana Park a tribute to Queen Lillihau was placed to show the gratitude of the officers and men of the Surveyor who found Hawaii a calm and wonderful way of life where imagination and feelings for love and beauty are so harmoniously combined.

Upon arrival of the Surveyor in Kodiak, Alaska in July, 1961, we were greeted by a collection of ships berthed at the Naval Station for the Independence Day holidays. Present were three Canadian destroyers of the River class, several Coast Guard ships, among them the Bittersweet, the ice breaker Northwind, USC&GS Ships Pathfinder, Pioneer and Surveyor, and the Navy ice breaker Burton Island. The harbor was crowded, and berth space at a premium.

It was a Saturday, and various of the C&GS, Navy and Canadian officers decided that a meeting at the Officers' Club would be appropriate. The Surveyor officers discussed ways that they could contribute to the evening's enjoyment and a decision was made to combine this current Arctic project with the recent Hawaiian cruise—the concept of two of our newest states, hands across the sea, and all that. Queen Lillihau was chosen as the instrument for this project and additional background material was provided to her royal charter. She was assigned more territory to her domain; her realm was extended to include the entire North Pacific Ocean, including Kodiak Island.

The Chief Electrician, who promptly produced another bronze tablet, fired up his engraving machine and engraved another tribute to the good Queen. This one was identical to the first, with the addition of a line

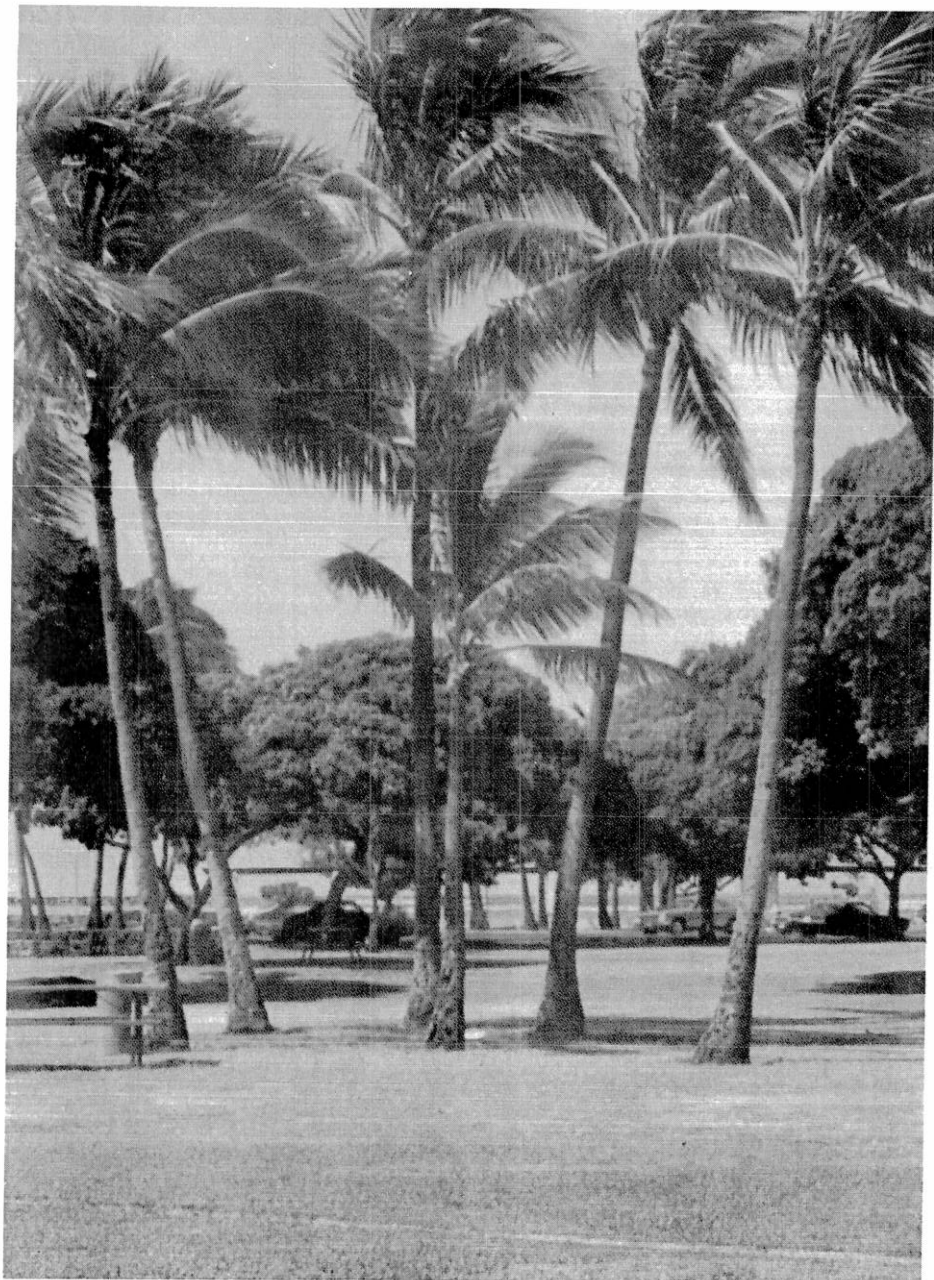
The Northern Boundaries of Her Realm

The manager of the Kodiak Naval Base Officers' Club, who agreed with our offer to present the tablet to the Club, arranged for a suitable spot, directly behind the main bar, for its permanent installation. The Queen Lillihau tablet was mounted in its place of honor before a large crowd, misty-eyed with the effect of the occasion.

The only loose end in this chronicle is the accounting of \$13.00 collected for the memorial. Just prior to departing Honolulu for Alaska, the entire amount was used to purchase dozens of small Hawaiian flags, each mounted on a little staff fixed into a wooden base. These flags were displayed in most of the compartments aboard the Surveyor, reminding the officers and men of the wonderful times in the Islands. Later that summer, one of the flags was planted on an ice cake at the northernmost extension of the ship's Arctic cruise, well to the north of the latitude of Point Barrow, above 72 degrees.

The flag may still be floating about up there, a tribute to Queen Lillihau and her happy reign.

A hui how kawa—until we meet again.



Among six sheltering palms in Honolulu's Ala Moana Park rests a tribute to Queen Lillihau.